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Cooperation and the scale of competition in humans.

West SA, Gardner A, Shuker DM, Reynolds T, Burton-Chellow M, Sykes EM, Guinnee MA, Griffin AS

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Laurent Keller

University of Lausanne ,
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ECOLOGY

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This is the first experimental test of the role of the scale of competition on the degree of cooperation in humans. The authors developed a model and conducted experiments to determine whether nonrelated humans adjust their level of cooperation facultatively in response to the scale of competition when playing the prisoner's dilemma game. The results reveal that cooperation is higher when competition occurs at a larger scale.

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